

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending, including independent claims 1, 5, 10, 14, and 19. All claims have been rejected over the prior art.

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,875,183 ("Nitadori"). Applicants disagree with this rejection. Claim 1 recites a method in which, among other things, information is acquired from another mobile unit, and that mobile unit is registered as a member of a virtual logic network if the acquired information satisfies a predetermined condition. The cited passages of Nitadori do not disclose the subject matter of claim 1, including registering a mobile unit as a member of a virtual logic network when a predetermined condition is satisfied by referring to information acquired from the mobile unit.

The same is true of independent claim 5. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the cited passages of Nitadori do not register mobile units as members of virtual logic networks according to whether predetermined conditions associated with the networks are satisfied based on information acquired from the mobile units, and do not perform a selection of a particular network to be set as an active network on the basis of a recited triggering event. Although the Examiner asserts in general fashion that these features are found in Nitadori, Applicants do not see correspondence between their claimed invention and Nitadori. If the Examiner believes this reference is relevant, Applicants request further explanation of the Examiner's reasoning. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5 for clarification.

Claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nitadori in view of U.S. Patent 6,647,270 ("Himmelstein").

Regarding independent claims 10 and 14, the Examiner applies Nitadori in the same way as against claims 1 and 5, respectively. However, as for claims 1 and 5, Nitadori is not applicable to claims 10 and 14 for the same reasons. Himmelstein is only cited to show the use of communication apparatuses mounted in vehicles and

does not cure the deficiencies of Nitadori. However, Applicants have amended independent claims 10 and 14 for clarification.

The rejected dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as explained above for the independent claims.

For example, dependent claim 2 further recites, among other things, that registering a member also includes creating a resource table for registering a capability of each member. Such capabilities can be type of communication devices, type of input/output devices, and information (e.g., map data) that can be supplied (e.g., ¶¶ 27, 54, 58, 60, 62). The cited passage in Himmelstein (col. 9, line 45-col. 10, line 40) does not disclose registering a capability of another vehicle. That passage describes a log of contacts made with the user's vehicle and includes an identification of the contact (date and time) and an identification of the contacting vehicle (color, make, model), but does not disclose registering a capability of the contacting vehicle in addition to its identification.

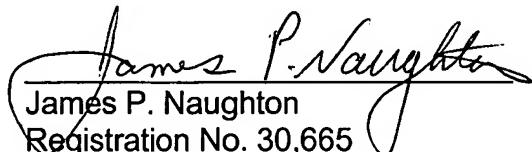
Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Himmelstein and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0096593 A1 ("Naboulsi"). These claims relate to the embodiment shown in Fig. 6 and described at ¶¶ 74-79 of Applicants' application. Applicants disagree with this rejection. The Examiner concedes that Himmelstein does not teach a sensor for detecting a physical condition of a driver, a sensor for monitoring a condition in the vehicle, or a condition determiner, yet still asserts that Himmelstein discloses an importance level determiner and an information-to-be-sent decider which operate in response to the missing elements. This is illogical; Himmelstein does not suggest either of these two elements. The Examiner's citations in Himmelstein for the importance level determiner do not disclose determining an importance level regarding the necessity for communicating on the basis of the detected condition as claimed, but rather describe a priority field for a communication. Similarly, the Examiner's citations in Himmelstein for the information-to-be-sent decider do not disclose deciding on information to be sent on the basis of the importance level

when it is determined necessary to communicate. In fact, the citations appear to have nothing to do with such a feature.

Naboulsi does not cure these deficiencies of Himmelstein. Moreover, Naboulsi is directed to an entirely different subject matter. Naboulsi generally describes a safety control system for detecting driver or vehicle conditions in which the driver would be distracted by a telephone, Internet usage, and the like. Upon detecting such driver or vehicle conditions, the system takes steps to avoid the distraction, particularly disabling the telephone or computer (e.g., Abstract; ¶¶ 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12-14, 24). There is no suggestion in the cited references to combine them in any way to result in Applicants' claimed invention. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended independent claim 19 for clarification.

In summary, Applicants submit that the present claims, as amended for clarification, patentably distinguish over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and early allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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